predetermined mark, and a double click labels with the predetermined special mark. The predetermined marks, with which object commodities are labeled, help an inventory employee to accurately grasp the numbers of counted commodities the images of which are displayed when the inventory employee counts the commodity displayed on the management display 53A or 53B. The special marks, with which particular commodities are labeled, also help the inventory employee to accurately grasp the particular commodities on the management display 53A or 53B. The predetermined marks or the predetermined special marks will be described in detail later with reference to FIG. 7.

The counter 56 automatically counts the labeled object commodities by counting clicks (operations) of the mouse 54A or 54B.

A marked image, which is an image of an individual commodity which image is labeled with a predetermined special mark by the marker 55, is returned to the clerk computer 10B together with instructions (e.g., a request for support by a clerk at a selling area) of an inventory employee via the communication controller 51A or 51B. The image compression devices 58A and 58B respectively compress a marked image as the inventory computer 50A or 50B transmits the marked image to the clerk

computer 10B.

The inventory computers 50A and 50B transmit instructions containing the name of an object commodity the image of which is to be taken, instructions to change a state of taking an image of an individual object commodity by the TV camera 20A, and instructions to move an individual object commodity by the manipulator 30A.

When an inventory employee wishes to display a desired object commodity on the management display 53A or 53B, the inventory employee transmits the name of the desired object commodity to the control computer 10A. Upon receipt of the name of the desired object commodity by the control computer 10A, the camera controller 13A causes the TV camera 20A to take an image of a selling area in which the desired object commodity is disposed, and the taken image of the selling area is transmitted to the inventory computer 50A or 50B and displayed on the management display 53A or 53B.

If the inventory employee wishes to change a state (such as zooming in/out or changing direction) of the TV camera 20A to take the image of a desired object commodity, which image is to be taken by the TV camera 20A and which image is displayed on the management display 53A or 53B, because of an obscured expiration date of the desired

object commodity on the management display 53A or 53B or other reason, the inventory employee transmits instructions to change a state of taking the image to the control computer 10A. On the basis of the instructions, the camera controller 13A controls a zooming operation of the TV camera 20A and controls the position and the posture of the TV camera 20A via the camera positioning device 21A. The inventory computers 50A and 50B remotely control conditions of the TV camera 20A when taking an image.

Further if the inventory employee wishes to change the position of a desired object commodity, which image is taken by the TV camera 20A and displayed on the management display 53A or 53B, because of an obscured expiration date of the desired object commodity on the management display 53A or 53B or other reason, the inventory employee transmits instructions to change the position of the desired object commodity to the control computer 10A. On the basis of the instructions, the manipulator controller 15A controls the manipulator 30A in such a manner that the manipulator 30A changes the position or the posture of the desired object commodity. Namely, the inventory computers 50A and 50B remotely control the manipulator 30A.

On the other hand, the inventory computers 50A and 50B transmit instructions containing a